

CROSS FLOODED
WITH OFFERS

NEWS OF ALL BRANCHES OF SPORT

EDITED BY
ROBERT EDGRENIT'S UP TO THE PITCHING STAFF
TO KEEP THE GIANTS IN FRONT

There Are Still Nearly Ninety Games to Play, Says Manager McGraw, and Success of the Club Depends on Effectiveness of the Boxmen—Cubs and Pirates Expected to Offer Strong Opposition When They Come East—Evers Has an Improved Team.

By John J. McGraw,

Manager of the Champion Giants.

It is my duty to report that the Giants climbed to the top of the heap last week as a result of our four-day battle with the Phillies, and that because of this fans have stormed me with this question within the last few days: "Have you got the flag clinched now?"

Take it from a man who has been through many campaigns, no pennant is won until it cannot be lost. Look at the case of the Chicago White Sox, who were trailing some where far behind in the season of 1906 along about the 1st of July. A man could have made a fortune if he had bet that the Chicago Americans would win the world's championship. They came through and did.

The teams the Giants must fear most from this point out are the Cubs and the Pirates. They are two ball clubs. I do not look for much more trouble from the Phillies. The Brooklyn team is yet a pennant possibility.

The ultimate success of the Giants depends largely on the effectiveness of the pitching staff. If I were sure that my twirlers would remain in the same form for the remainder of the season that they are showing at present I might be tempted to talk pennant even now. But with nearly ninety games left to play and the possibility of my team being torn apart through injuries and sickness it would be ridiculous for me to claim the pennant. Pennants are not won by the first of July, nor through conversation. The hardest part of the journey is still ahead of my club.

It was largely the excellent pitching of the Giants, combined with some terrific hitting that reflected the falling condition of the Philadelphia pitching staff, which put us ahead. Mathewson is a wonderful pitcher this year, as good right now as I have ever seen him. He has been the cornerstone of my staff all season and still continues to be.

MARQUARD WILL PROVE BIG HELP FROM NOW ON.

Marquard is rapidly returning to the form that brought him nineteen straight victories last spring. The "Rube" pitched one of the smoothest games in Philadelphia that he has shown this year. It is my opinion that he will finish up this season just as strong as he started last, personally, I prefer to have them finishing strong, although the big string Marquard won last year gave us a great jump on the field. He deserves all the credit in the world for his showing.

Just Mathewson and Marquard as they are at present, we can crowd any pitching staff I have seen so far this season in the National League, but it is my hunch that there is going to be a lot of better twirling on the other clubs before the race is over, especially among the Western teams. Both Chicago and Pittsburgh are going to get good pitching, and Cincinnati has a much improved staff over what Tinker was working in the first months of the race.

To help out Mathewson and Marquard I have Evers, Demaree and Fromme. Tanager is a wonderful pitcher, but he has not developed the control this year which he showed toward the end of the last campaign. The warmer weather is helping him, as he has always been especially a hot weather worker. But this task of waiting for warm weather to get a staff into shape is greatly overdone.

Of course no pitcher is as good in

the raw days of April and early May as they are in June and July, but the Pittsburgh pitchers, for instance, have been working the warm weather allbit this year until it is frizzled.

WESTERN TEAMS WILL OFFER STRONG OPPOSITION.

It is my notion that the Western clubs are going to supply a lot more competition in the National League when they come East this time than they did on the occasion of their last invasion. Because the Giants have leaped out in front every team will be playing its head off against the champions now and working its best pitchers. But this difference will not be so appreciable to the average fan, because that is true of every stage of the race; they all want to beat the Big Town boys all the time. Therefore, they all save up their star pitchers to work against the Giants.

Evers has an improved team and will make trouble. He has players with the pluck and sagacity of pennant winners outside of the pitching box. He has been bending every effort to strengthen that staff and has succeeded to an extent. Pierce and Humphries have worked some pretty good games lately, while Cheney is an excellent pitcher if he will give him a chance to rest once in a while. Overall will soon be entirely recovered from his strain, and both Lavender and Ritchie should improve. They are capable of better work than they have shown to date.

Followers of baseball may think I am foolish to consider the Cubs and Pirates still to be contenders, but my reason for this belief is that they are both fighting ball clubs and better finishers than starters. Look back over their records for the last several years and you will observe that this finishing feature is true. Both these teams will find easier going in the East this time than they encountered on their last trip. Philadelphia cleaned up on the West last time. The Phillies, I believe, won't do that when they next entertain the clubs from the other half of the circuit.

Brooklyn should put up a good fight against the invaders, but not so sturdy a one as the Dodgers displayed on the occasion of the last visit of the Westerners. At that time the Brooklyn club was trembling up near the league lead and was fired with pennant aspirations and confidence. A hard campaign through the West has melted away some of this confidence, and the club is not nearly so sturdy as it was.

There are also evidences of a slight decline on the part of the pitching staff. The twirlers have done wonderful work for Dahlen, and it was the sudden blossoming of the pitching staff into form that has shoved the Superbas up near the top, just as the unexpected play of pitching talent all at once in Washington last summer placed the Senators in the fight when they were counted on as a second division team. It just goes to show what a manager can do with three or four reliable twirlers all in form at once.

AMUSEMENTS.

HAMMERSTEIN'S Roof. Daily Mat., 2:30, 7:30, 9:15. 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, 90c, 95c, 1.00. 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, 90c, 95c, 1.00.

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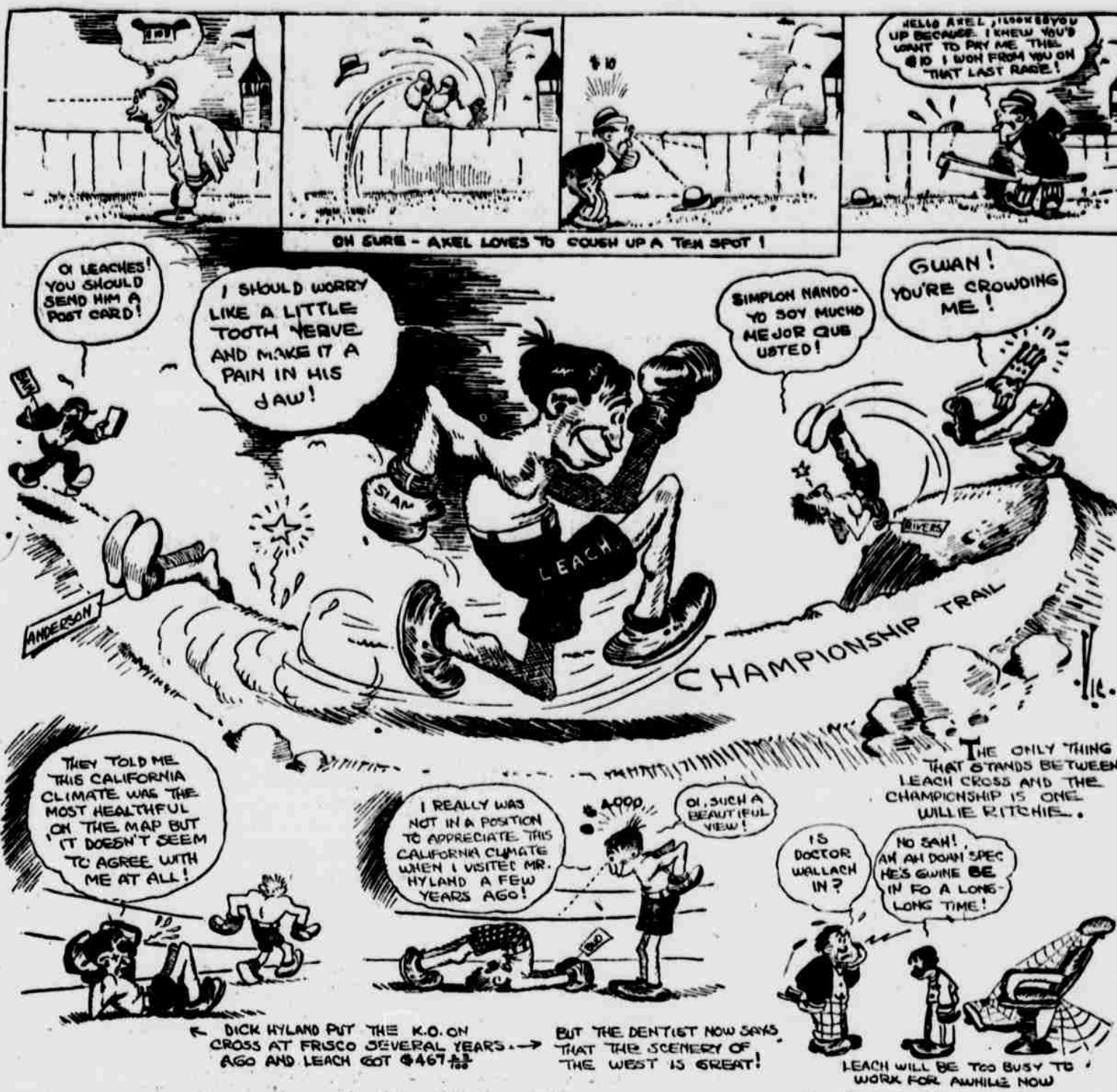
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OH! NEW YORK HAS IT A NEAR-CHAMP! - - By VIC Leach

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Leach Cross Swamped
With Offers for Bouts

Tom McCarey Wants Him to Stay in Los Angeles to Meet Ritchie Labor Day.

By John Pollock

LEACH CROSS can be kept busy fighting for a long time if he is willing to accept all offers he has received from the managers of boxing clubs all over the country. Tom McCarey, the fight promoter of Vernon, Cal., wants him to remain in Los Angeles and meet Willie Ritchie on Labor Day for the lightweight championship title. McCarey has informed Leach that a bout between him and Ritchie would draw at least \$25,000. Other offers come from Butte, Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis and New Orleans. Leach hasn't accepted any terms yet, but Sam Wallace, his brother, who looks after his affairs, expects to definitely decide on something by Wednesday. Wallace, in a telegram to this office, says that over \$50,000 was lost on Anderson.

Jack McGuinn, manager of the National A. C. of Philadelphia, made it known to Leach that he would like to see him fight a ten-round